

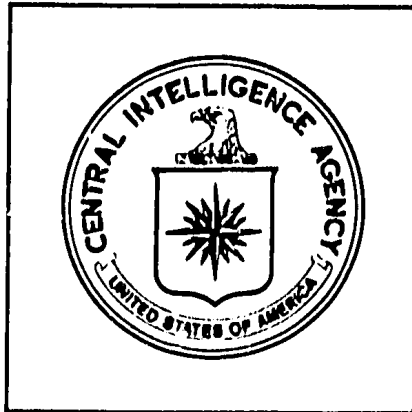
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STAFF NOTES:

Soviet Union Eastern Europe

State Department review completed

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162

25X1

May 13, 1975

25X1

Approved For Release 2004/10/20 : CIA-RDP86T00608R000400080042-5

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SOVIET UNION - EASTERN EUROPE

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CONTENTS

May 13, 1975

25X1

Romania: Human Rights.	2
CHRONOLOGY	5

25X1

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Romania: Human Rights

The US embassy has recently provided a detailed overview of the observance of human rights in Ceausescu's Romania. The report is especially timely in view of the discussions of "the freer movement of peoples and ideas" at the European security talks in Geneva.

Like other Communist regimes, Romania's constitution and laws contain formal guarantees of the rights of the average citizen. Under Ceausescu, Stalinist excesses have indeed been eliminated and rule by law has made substantial progress. There still exists, however, a gap between the letter of the law and its implementation, and aside from Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, and Albania, Romania probably retains more police controls than any other East European country.

Ceausescu has put his personal stamp on, and improved, the Romanian judicial system and has curbed many illegal secret police activities. Although the average citizen can still be subjected to severe and arbitrary punishment, Ceausescu has done a creditable job in eliminating state terror and intimidation. He has emphasized "socialist legality," which, as the embassy points out, means that in return for hard work and unquestioning support of the party directives, no citizen need fear persecution or harassment.

Bucharest justifies its strict regimen by pointing out the need to maintain and expand Romanian political and economic independence of the Soviet Union. Czechoslovakia is frequently cited as an example of what can happen when there is a breakdown of orthodoxy at home and the party loses its leading role in society. The Romanian people's lack of experience with democratic forms of government is both an aid and excuse for the regime to maintain tight internal controls.

May 13, 1975

Capital punishment exists for a wide variety of crimes, but is mainly used as a deterrent to those tempted by the national pastime--economic corruption. The embassy reports that its contacts with recently released prisoners indicate that torture is not commonly used or condoned and that Romanian prisons generally meet humane standards. Several embassy sources indicate that there may be as many as 5,000 political prisoners in Romania--still a figure much smaller than when Ceausescu came to power a decade ago. Unconfirmed reports continue to circulate claiming that unrepentant political dissenters have been confined to mental institutions.

On the subject of emigration, Romania has a good, but mixed record. Large numbers of Jews were allowed to leave for Israel in the late 1940s and 1950s, but that number has now shrunk to 3,000-5,000 annually. Ethnic Germans have been permitted to emigrate to the Federal Republic. A small, steady stream of several hundred Romanian immigrants arrives in the US annually, and the embassy expects an upturn in permanent emigration to the US.

The Romanians among themselves are outspoken and critical of the regime. Political humor flourishes, including a wealth of Ceausescu jokes. The days of brutal persecution of Christians are a thing of the past. There is, in fact, an effort to display tolerance by having representatives of the leading churches elected to Parliament. In 1972, Ceausescu's father was buried with full church rites before a nationwide television audience.

Even with the progress made in stressing rule by law, there is little chance of dramatic improvement in the near future. The entire legal system is designed to ensure and perpetuate the party's tight control. Bucharest's pursuit of "national

May 13, 1975

communism" may yet produce innovations which could become guarantees for civil liberties. This is not likely to happen, however, until Romania gains sufficient affluence, self-confidence, and security to extend its maverick approach in foreign policy to domestic affairs.

25X1

May 13, 1975

-4-

CHRONOLOGY

May 6

US delegation led by W. Averell Harriman begins a five-day, official visit to the USSR to mark the 30th anniversary of V-E Day. [REDACTED]

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USSR and Egypt sign an economic cooperation protocol in Moscow. [REDACTED]

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Hungarian Cardinal Jozsef Mindszenty dies in exile in Austria at age 83.

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[REDACTED]
Fedayeen leader Arafat concludes two days of official business in Czechoslovakia; communique indicates Czechoslovak support for Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization. [REDACTED]

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Politburo member Kirilenko begins an official visit to Czechoslovakia. [REDACTED]

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Agriculture Minister Polyansky confers with visiting US Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Long. [REDACTED]

25X1

Bulgarian Foreign Minister Mladenov confers with visiting Iraqi Foreign Minister Hammadi in Sofia. [REDACTED]

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May 7

Cypriot Interior and Defense Minister Veniamin begins an official visit to the USSR. [REDACTED]

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As a gesture to mark the V-E Day anniversary, the presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet declares an amnesty for several categories of prisoners; excluded are "persons convicted for particularly dangerous, state crimes and persons recognized as particularly dangerous recidivists." [REDACTED]

25X1

May 13, 1975

May 7

First Deputy Premier Mazurov arrives in Yugoslavia for an official visit.

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North Vietnamese Foreign Minister Trinh arrives in Moscow for an official visit.

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Former West German chancellor Brandt tells the US that Brezhnev has asked for a short postponement of Brandt's visit to the USSR scheduled to begin on May 14;

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Romanian party secretary Andrei tells the US that Romania has applied for observer status at the next meeting of the foreign ministers of the non-aligned states.

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Iraqi strong man Saddam Husayn concludes a three-day official visit to Bulgaria and begins a two-day visit to Hungary.

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Hungary agrees to permit the Palestine Liberation Organization to open an office in Budapest.

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In his V-E Day speech, Bulgarian party/state chief Zhivkov praises the role of the Yugoslav partisans during World War II but goes on to suggest that Yugoslavia still lacks the proper "political and class manner."

25X1

May 13, 1975

25X1

May 7

Soviet Defense Ministry delegation led by Colonel General Abromov begins an official visit to North Vietnam.

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SALT negotiators at Geneva recess until June 1 to permit a full review of the negotiating situation by Moscow and Washington.

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May 8

Politburo member Kulakov concludes a three-day, official visit to East Germany.

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Brezhnev covers a wide range of international subjects in his V-E Day commemorative speech in Moscow.

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Polish and Hungarian ICCS delegations leave South Vietnam.

25X1

Romanian Foreign Minister Macovescu concludes a four-day, official visit to Finland.

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May 9

Brezhnev and other top Soviet officials meet with the leaders of the Western delegations in Moscow for the V-E Day ceremonies.

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Premier Pham Van Dong heads North Vietnamese attendees at the Soviet embassy's reception in Hanoi to mark the V-E Day observance.

25X1

Yugoslavia and Portugal sign commercial and tourism agreements in Lisbon.

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Yugoslav President Tito is present for the hour-long V-E Day military parade through Belgrade; the parade

May 13, 1975

25X1

May 9

features the first Yugoslav display of sophisticated military hardware recently acquired from the USSR. [REDACTED]

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Soviet party-government declaration marking V-E Day claims that "never before has there been done so much for consolidating peace as over the past years." [REDACTED]

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President Ford confers with Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin, who conveys the USSR's V-E Day anniversary statement; Dobrynin delivered the same message to Vice President Rockefeller and Speaker Albert. [REDACTED]

25X1

Soviet media report completion of vital rail link joining the Trans-Siberian railroad to construction under way on the Baikal-Amur mainline railroad. [REDACTED]

25X1

USSR and Canada sign in Ottawa an agreement for a \$500-million Soviet purchase of Canadian machinery and technological equipment. [REDACTED]

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President Ceausescu is one of several Romanians to be awarded the USSR's 30th anniversary of V-E Day commemorative medal as a "participant in the war." [REDACTED]

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May 10

Aeroflot offices in downtown Washington are damaged by an early morning bomb blast. [REDACTED]

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Yugoslav President Tito confers with visiting Soviet and US delegations to V-E Day celebrations. [REDACTED]

25X1

May 13, 1975

25X1

May 10

Iraqi strong man Saddam Husayn concludes a two-day, official visit to East Germany. [REDACTED]

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May 11

Politburo candidate-member Ustinov concludes an official visit to Mongolia and returns to Moscow. [REDACTED]

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Politburo member Suslov confers with North Vietnamese Foreign Minister Trinh in Moscow. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Austrian Chancellor Kreisky commences a three-day, official visit to Bulgaria. [REDACTED]

25X1

Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Alkhimov arrives in New York from Canada on official business meeting with Chase Manhattan Bank's David Rockefeller. [REDACTED]

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May 12

US naval vessels commence a six-day, official port call at Leningrad; Soviet naval vessels begin a six-day, official port call at Boston. [REDACTED]

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Polish Central Committee approves party chief Gierek's proposals to reorganize the party-government bureaucracies in a manner which will tighten central controls at the expense of regional administrations. [REDACTED]

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May 13, 1975

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May 12

Party secretary Katushev leads Soviet officials at the Moscow observance of the 15th anniversary of relations with Cuba. [REDACTED]

25X1

Yugoslav-US economic council convenes at Dubrovnik. [REDACTED]

25X1

Four Soviet naval vessels commence a five-day, official port call at Split, Yugoslavia. [REDACTED]

25X1

Polish Foreign Trade Minister Olszewski begins an official visit to Portugal. [REDACTED]

25X1

President Podgorny receives from visiting Finnish Foreign Minister Karjalainen a list of signatures collected in Finland in support of bilateral peace and friendship. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

USSR signs an agreement to send unspecified amounts of oil, food, medicine, fertilizers, fabrics, and motor vehicles to South Vietnam this year. [REDACTED]

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25X1

Premier Kosygin commences a four-day, official visit to Libya and meets with Prime Minister Jallud; his delegation includes Deputy Foreign Minister Ilichev. [REDACTED]

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Hungarian party secretary Pullai begins an official visit to the USSR. [REDACTED]

25X1

May 13, 1975

25X1

May 12

For the first time, foreign journalists are permitted to enter the Soviets space mission control center in a suburb of Moscow. [REDACTED]

25X1

North Korean Politburo member Kim Yo-chung concludes an official visit to the USSR. [REDACTED]

25X1

Yugoslavia collective state presidency chaired by Tito, elects Vladimir Bakaric for one-year tour as vice president. [REDACTED]

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May 13

Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Sushkov leaves Moscow for an official visit to Canada. [REDACTED]

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25X1

Queen Juliana of the Netherlands, accompanied by her husband, begins an official three-day visit to Romania. [REDACTED]

Iraqi strong man Saddam Husayn ends three-day visit to Romania. [REDACTED]

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FUTURE EVENTS

May 14

Warsaw Pact member-states to observe the 20th anniversary of the formation of their organization at a two-day meeting in Warsaw of representatives of their parliaments. [REDACTED]

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Poland and Portugal to sign a commercial agreement in Lisbon. [REDACTED]

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May 15

East-West force reductions negotiations to resume at Vienna. [REDACTED]

25X1

May 13, 1975

May 15 Premier Kosygin to begin a three-day, official visit to Tunisia. [REDACTED] 25X1

May 18 US delegation of governors to commence a twelve-day, official visit to the USSR. [REDACTED] 25X1

May 19 Secretary of State Kissinger to meet with Foreign Minister Gromyko at Geneva for two days of talks. [REDACTED] 25X1

US and Soviet representatives to convene in Washington for annual review of their 1972 agreement to curb incidents at sea. [REDACTED] 25X1

NASA delegation to visit the Soviet launch site at Baikonour. [REDACTED] 25X1

May 20 Austrian President Kirchschrager to begin a five-day, state visit to Poland. [REDACTED] 25X1

Soviet-Romanian economic commission to convene in Moscow. [REDACTED] 25X1

May 21 Hungarian Foreign Minister Puja to begin a three-day, official visit to West Germany. [REDACTED] 25X1

May 24 Foreign Minister Gromyko expected to arrive in Cairo for an official visit. [REDACTED] 25X1

May 27 Israeli Foreign Minister Allon to begin a four-day visit to Romania. [REDACTED] 25X1

May 28 Soviet-Canadian commercial commission to convene in Ottawa for a two-day meeting. [REDACTED] 25X1

May 13, 1975

25X1

June 1 Soviet-Libyan economic commission to convene in Moscow. [REDACTED]

25X1

June 2 Polish party chief Gierak to begin a four-day, official visit to Sweden. [REDACTED]

25X1

June 4 David Rockefeller to commence three days of official business in Czechoslovakia. [REDACTED]

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Romanian President Ceausescu to begin a three-day, state visit to Brazil followed by a five-day visit to Mexico.

early June

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May 13, 1975

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